

From: Terrence Kearns
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: MS Antitrust Settlement

The proposed MS settlement not only fails to punish MS for its clear monopolistic and anti-competitive practices, it does nothing to promote a fair market place, and actually solidifies Microsoft's monopoly. The idea of MS "giving" equipment and software to needy schools is like the dope peddler "giving" free samples to the uninitiated. Once MS gets the new schools hooked on their operating system, the schools will soon need the next upgrade, and that one will not be free. Of course the schools will get government grant money to give to Microsoft for the next "needed" upgrade, and the one after that. MS has cleverly furthered its monopoly while giving a public appearance of being generous and charitable. It seems as though the DOJ is taking the position that, "in this time of economic crisis, we dare not do anything to harm Microsoft because Microsoft is the only game in town." Well, that's the whole point, isn't it.

The proposed settlement, by continuing to stifle alternative operating systems, results in vulnerability to info-terrorism. Terrorists interested in bringing down the economy by introducing computer virus have a perfect opportunity when there is essentially only one operating system to deal with, and that one full of security holes.